



**JSPS Program for Advancing Strategic International
Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers**
Global Networking on Molecular Technology Research

【Vol.1】 Report from Ryotaro Aso

I am pleased to write about my first experiences at Harvard University. This university is the oldest institution of higher education in the United States, and was founded in 1636. The university is based in the heart of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Currently, I work as a visiting scholar at Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, a school dedicated to fundamental and applied research.

John Harvard statue



Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences



Now, I live in Cambridge near the Boston city. Boston is one of the most beautiful historic cities in the United States with museums of high reputation and stunning monuments. There is the Freedom Trail that passes by significant historical monuments such as the Bunker Hill Monument, Park Street Church, Old State House, Old North Church and others. In Boston downtown, there are Boston Common and Faneuil Hall Marketplace where jugglers, magicians and musicians entertain people. So I enjoyed exploring the city, strolling, shopping and eating quite a bit.

Boston Common



Quincy Market



In winter season, Boston area is so cold and close to Canada (only 4 hr by car). There was a big snow storm, when we had about 30 cm of snow and Charles River was frozen completely. I also participated the New Year's Eve (First Night) Midnight events which included various performances, and spectacular fireworks as well as ice sculptures at Boston Harbor.

Harvard Yard in winter season



Frozen Charles River



Ice Sculpture in Copley Square



Harbor Fireworks on Boston Harbor



In the next report, I will report about my research activities at Harvard. And finally, I would like to thank and express my appreciation to my boss and other people who made it possible for me to come and perform my research here.